

DRAINAGE DISTRICT #1

The Honorable Renato Cuellar, County Judge, called the Drainage District #1 Board to order, whereupon the following proceedings were had to wit::

CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM 1. LINE ITEM TRANSFER - \$116,000.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve the line item transfer for Drainage District.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit A)

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEM 1. PERMITS:

- A. Pct. #1:
 - 1. North Alamo Water Supply
- B. Pct. #4
 - 1. North Alamo Water Supply

NO ACTION.
(See Exhibit B)

ITEM 2. PURCHASING DEPARTMENT FOR H.C.D.D. #1:

- A. Requesting authority to advertise for:
 - 1. One (1) New Trailer
 - 2. One (1) New 1997 Long Reach Excavator
 - 3. Herbicide

2/A/1

Martha Salazar, Purchasing Agent, came before the Court requesting authority to advertise for one new trailer, one new 1997 long reach excavator and herbicide. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit C)

ADD. PURCHASING DEPARTMENT:

- A. Drainage District #1:
1. Requesting approval of contract for "Crushed Caliche for El Sauz Project - Valley Caliche
 2. Requesting approval of contract for "Hauling Services" for El Sauz Project - MC Trucking Service

ADD/A/1

Mrs. Salazar informed the Commissioners' Court that she was requesting approval of a contract for crushed caliche for El Sauz Project with Valley Caliche. She added that this bid was awarded on November 25, 1997 and the front and last pages of the contract will indicated "Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1" as opposed to "Hidalgo County" as is listed. Commissioner Rosel asked her if there was a difference in material and she added that there was not. Commissioner Rosel stated that the reason that he was asking was because the State has a different set of specs than the County and Godfrey Garza responded that they had advertised for a certain grade of caliche and County Wide specified different. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioners Handy and Rosel to approve the contract for El Sauz Project to Valley Caliche and approve the contract for hauling services, for the El Sauz Project, to MC Trucking Service.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit D)

There being no further business to come before the Drainage District #1 Board, a motion was made by Commissioner and seconded by Commissioner that said meeting be hereby adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

The Honorable Renato Cuellar, County Judge, called the Commissioners' Court meeting to order whereupon the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER AND PAYMENT OF CLAIMS/BILLS - HIDALGO COUNTY AUDITOR

ITEM 2. LINE ITEM TRANSFERS:

- A. 92nd District Court - \$119.50
- B. J.P. Pct. 1 Pl. 2 - 372.00
- C. County Judge - \$600.00
- D. Constable Pct. 4 - \$154.99
- E. 370th District Court - \$1,550.00
- F. Adult Probation - State Funds - 700.00
- G. Commissioner Pct. 4 - Road & Bridge - \$1,500.00
- H. Commissioner Pct. 4 - Administration - \$350.00
- I. Commissioner Pct. 4 - Landfill - \$51,900.00
- J. J.P. Pct. 1 Pl. 1 - \$73.00
- K. Buildings & Grounds - \$8,000.00
- L. Purchasing Department - 1,800.00

(See Exhibit E)

ITEM 3. PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

- A. Subdivisions:
 - 1. Jackson Commerce Development Subdivision Phase IV - Pct. 2
 - 2. Medina Subdivision - Pct. 2
 - 3. Sylvia's Business Center Subdivision Phase I - Pct. 2

(See Exhibit F)

ITEM 4. URBAN COUNTY PROGRAM:

- A. HOME - First Time Homebuyer Contract Agreement and letter of Commitment to Mortgage Company - 3 families
- B. Extension on Letter of Commitment to Mortgage Company on HOME First-Time Homebuyer Contract Agreement - 1 family
- C. HOME Homeowner Occupied Housing Rehab Application - 1 family

(See Exhibit G)

Judge Cuellar introduced the Consent Agenda and asked if there were any changes. Commissioner Arcaute indicated that under item 3/A/1, Jackson Commerce Development Subdivision Phase IV, there is a request for no action on this item. A motion was made by Commissioner Arcaute and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the Consent Agenda as revised.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibits D-G)

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEM 1. PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

A. Subdivisions:

1. The Oaklands Subdivisions - Pct. 3

Emilio Garcia, Chief Planner, came before the Court requesting approval of "The Oaklands Subdivision". It is in Precinct Three, located 330 feet north of Mile 2 North on the west side of Glasscock Road and it consists of twenty-one (21) lots. It has been approved by the City of Mission and all the improvements were done in accordance to the City of Mission and the County. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy, to approve the subdivision as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit H)

ITEM 2. COUNTY JUDGE'S OFFICE:

- A. Approve 1998-1999 Grant Resolution for Hidalgo County Drug Impact Court

Mrs. Loura Etnire informed the Court that this was the 1998-99 Grant Resolution for the Hidalgo County Drug Impact Court. She added that this was the last year for this particular grant and the total amount of the grant will be \$220,950.00. The amount of grant funds coming in would be \$157,820.00 and the cash match by Hidalgo County would be \$63,130.00. This is approximately the same amount that was put in this year. Commissioner Garces reported that the initial length of the grant contract was for four years and this would be the last year. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the 1998-99 grant resolution for Hidalgo County Drug Impact Court, in the total amount of \$220,950.00

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit I)

ITEM 3. RIO GRANDE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP:

- A. Approval of a concurrent Order to be adopted by Cameron County and Hidalgo County in connection with the creation of a Sports and Community Venue District Pursuant to Chapter 335, Texas Local Government Code and Making other provisions and findings related to the subject

Lisa Saucedo came before the Court requesting approval of a concurrent order to be adopted by Cameron County and Hidalgo County in connection with the creation of a sports and community venue district. She stated that there were some things that she wanted to clarify. The first was on the dates given as to the terms of the appointees; the date given was October and this was the hoped for date to get the project rolling and she has spoken to Cameron County and they will have this item on their agenda the following week therefore they will have the terms as of the date that they approve it. She did say that she would come back to Commissioners' Court at a later date with some recommendations on the appointees. Ms. Saucedo continued by saying that as far as the dates, Cameron County had agreed that they will change those dates according to when the order is approved by both entities. This order was drafted in order to create a sports venue and they were hoping to make it a two County sports venue and they would appoint five members from each County to sit on this board. Commissioner Rosel asked if there were any parameters as far a qualifications for the selection of those members and Ms. Saucedo responded that she had a list that was recommended by the committee that sat on the bill and some of those people are individuals that were on that original team. She then turned the floor over to Mr. Bill Summers, from the Rio Grande Valley Partnership. Mr. Summers stated that according to House Bill 92 the opportunity for the creation of a sports venue was approved. He added that this venue would not only be used for baseball facilities, but also for rodeo arenas, as a municipal auditorium etc. He continued by saying that the people who were recommending this had worked hard and spent a lot of time on this project. There were also individuals from various cities across the County. Commissioner Rosel asked that this project was similar to the one in Houston where the committee would eventually go to the voters with a bond issue to build this complex and hopefully it would attract more tourists into this area. Mr. Summers said that this committee would have to do feasibility studies and hold the election and if the consensus of the Valley decides that this venue is not needed then so be it. After further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy to approve a concurrent order to be adopted by Cameron County and Hidalgo County in the dealing of the creation of a Sports Venue and Community Venue District pursuant to Chapter 335, Texas Local Government Code and also making other provisions and findings related to the particular subject under discussion.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit J)

ITEM 4. URBAN COUNTY PROGRAM:

- A. City of Alton - PFI Street Improvements - UCP year 10, 1997 - Professional Engineering Services Contract

- B. City of Edcouch - Approval of a Professional Service Agreement with Snowden Engineering for a PFI Water Treatment Plant FY 1996 and FY 1997
- C. City of Edcouch - PFI - Parks, Recreational Facilities FY 7 1994 - Approval of Change Order No. 4 with Apcon General Contractors, Inc.
- D. City of Elsa - Approval of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Elsa and Pct. 1 to apportion the costs for the improvements of certain streets with the City
- E. City of La Joya - Approval of a Professional Service Agreement (Architectural) with Alcocer and Associates Design Consulting. Public Services - Library year 9, - 1996
- F. City of Mercedes - Approval of Subrecipient Agreement with Mercedes Affordable Housing Year 10 - 1997
- G. City of Alton - HOME Housing Rehabilitation Change Order 1 - 1 family

4/A

Anthony Covacevich, Urban County Director, came before the Court requesting approval of professional services contract for the City of Alton. This was for Year 10 and the engineer was L.L. Rodriguez and Associates and the contract amount was \$4,000.00. The street to be improved is Campeche Street. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit K-1)

4/B

Mr. Covacevich continued by saying that the next item was for the City of Edcouch and it was for approval of a professional services contract with Snowden Engineering for \$38,150.00. This was for repairs to the existing waste water system and a proposed new waste water system. A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit K-2)

4/C

Mr. Covacevich indicated that this next item was also a request from the City of Edcouch for approval of a change order number four with Apcon General Contractors, Inc. The contract amount is \$144,300.00 and change order number four will reduce this by \$9,830.00 to a new contract amount of \$134,470.00. The reductions are being done for items where credit allowances were not used and also for not placing a sign depicting that it was an Urban County Project. A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit K-3)

4/D

Mr. Covacevich reported that the City of Elsa was requesting approval of an interlocal agreement between the City of Elsa and Hidalgo County Precinct One for the improvement of three streets, Hood Street, Bowie Street and Benito Alaniz Street and also some improvements on Ciro Cazares Avenue. A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit K-4)

4/E

Mr. Covacevich informed the Court that the City of La Joya was requesting approval of a professional services contract with Alcocer and Associates Design Consulting. This was for the public services item and it is for the renovation of a building to produce a public library for the City of La Joya. The contract is for an amount of \$3,800.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit K-5)

4/F

Mr. Covacevich stated that the City of Mercedes was requesting approval of a subrecipient agreement with Mercedes Affordable Housing and it was to come from Year 10 funding. The amount was for \$25,000.00 and it was a continuation project. A motion was made by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit K-6)

4/G

Mr. Covacevich added that the last item was for the City of Alton and it was on a HOME Housing Rehab change order number one and it was for Case #AL-1096-03 increasing the contract by \$1,200.00 from \$16,925.00 to \$18,125.00 and it was to refurbish the septic tank and drain field system. This item was overlooked in the initial bid. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Arcaute to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit K-7)

ITEM 5. PURCHASING DEPARTMENT:

- A. Hidalgo County:
 - 1. Requesting authority to advertise for MS-1 Emulsified Asphalt
- B. Library System:
 - 1. Requesting approval of renewal of lease rental agreement with Jorge Goddard
- C. Sheriff's Department:
 - 1. Requesting authority to advertise for "Plumbing Services" for Sheriff's Department

5/A

Martha Salazar, Purchasing Agent, came before the Court requesting authority to advertise for MS-1 emulsified asphalt. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioners Rosel and Handy to approve the request as approved.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit L-1)

5/B

Ms. Salazar continued by requesting approval of a renewal of a lease rental agreement with Jorge Goddard for the Hidalgo County Library System. The agreement was for a rental amount not to exceed \$8,700.00 per year. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit L-2)

5/C

Ms. Salazar also requested authority to advertise for plumbing services for the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Garces asked if there was anyway that they could add other County Departments to this and Ms. Salazar responded that she would be working on another specifications for the County buildings at a later date as well as on the air conditioning. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit L-3)

ADD. 1. PURCHASING DEPARTMENT:

A. Sheriff's Department:

1. Recommending award of bid for "Soft Body Armor (Ballistic Vests)"

Mrs. Salazar informed the Court that this was on a bid opening that was held the previous Tuesday. She explained that they had received three bids; Armor Holdings Inc., out of Jacksonville Florida and this bid was incomplete due to the fact that the samples were not received; GT Distributors out of Austin Texas and Second Change Soft Body Armor out of Central Lake Michigan, the quotes were not received only their samples. The only qualified bidder was GT Distributors out of Austin, Texas and their bid was for \$332.90 per vest and as per consultation with the Sheriff's Department, they had budgeted a target figure of well over \$500.00 per vest and they are very satisfied with the product that was presented. They were recommending the awarding of the bid of \$332.90. Commissioner Rosel had a concern with the fact that two out of the three bidders did not submit complete packages. He also mentioned that in talking to a representative of the Purchasing Department other bids had been submitted but had arrived late. Mrs. Salazar informed him that what had happened was that the bidders had requested packets forwarded on the specifications to manufacturers so that they could send in the samples. The samples arrived on time, but the bidders did not send their bids in on time and she believes that they relied on overnight carriers. This was a opening that was held on a Tuesday rather than on a Wednesday and the bids that arrived late were returned them to the bidders. Commissioner Rosel asked her if she thought that the specs were in any way ambiguous and she replied that they were not. Commissioner Garces asked if anyone had check on GT Distributors and their past performances and Ms. Salazar referred that question to Lt. Roy Quintanilla. Lt. Quintanilla responded that they had used their vests in the past. Commissioner Garces then asked her what her recommendation was and Mrs. Salazar indicated that it was GT Distributors out of Austin at a bid price of \$332.90 per vest. A motion was made by Commissioner Garces and seconded by Commissioner Rosel to approve the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

(See Exhibit M)

Commissioner Rosel continued the discussion by saying that the other thing that he saw was the Sheriff's Department considered this item as something that they needed to have done very quickly. Ms. Salazar responded that it was more budgetary concerns.

ADD. 2. HIDALGO COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE:

- A. Introduction of County Extension Agent (Assistant) Agriculture/4-H, Rogerio "Omar" Cavazos
- B. Present recognition awards to Court, County Judge and Commission as "Friends of Extension"

ADD. 2/A

Dr. Ida Acuña came before the Court to introduce Brad Cowen who in turn introduced the new County Extension Agent, Mr. Rogerio "Omar" Cavazos. He added that Mr. Cavazos was a native of Harlingen, a graduate of TSTC's Farm and Ranch Management Program in Harlingen and went on to Texas A & M University in Kingsville and received his degree in Agricultural Sciences and has been recently approved by the Hidalgo County Extension Service as the new Assistant County Agricultural Agent for Hidalgo County. Mr. Cavazos then thanked the Extension Service and added that he hoped to have a positive on the residents of Hidalgo County. Mr. Cowen indicated that Mr. Cavazos would be working primarily with the 4-H youth in Hidalgo County.

NO ACTION.

(See Exhibit N)

ADD. 2/B

Dr. Acuña continued by saying that one of the ways that they carry out their educational programs in the County was through their Board of Directors. On December 16th, they had their annual meeting of the Extension Program Council and the Council presented some recognition certificates and awards and she would like to call Eleanor Garcia and Patty Loya to the front. She added that they had some awards that they had ready on December 16th and they would like to present these at this time. The first award was a 1997 "Friend of the Extension" to the Hidalgo County Urban County Program for outstanding service and support of Extension Educational Programs in Hidalgo County; Anthony Covacevich received the award on behalf of the Urban County Program. Dr. Acuña continued by saying that they have a long standing partnership with the types of programs that they have worked with in the colonias and they have also participated in the First-Time Homebuyer Program. The next award was to the entire Commissioners' Court for their support and she presented a plaque that is a "Friend of Extension Certificate of Appreciation" for outstanding and dedicated to the support of the Extension Educational Programs in Hidalgo County; and she presented this to County Judge Cuellar. She mentioned that they also had an award for each of the Commissioners and the County Judge, as well as a Special Award for Mrs. Loura Etnire, because of her guidance through extension and she is a true friend of extension and Mr. Manuel Cavazos, the County Auditor. She did mention that they would be distributing an annual report in early January with the number of contact that they have reached in the County. they have well over a thousand contacts in participation, some

direct contact and indirect contacts, newsletters information that is presented to the citizens and they are there as the County's resource and as the educational arm of the County reaching out into the community and so they are very proud of the work that they have done and they hope to continue their services.

Commissioner Garces asked Dr. Acuña about the recent changes in the Extension Service staff and she replied that three of her staff members acquired positions in Harris County. After further discussion no further action was required.

NO ACTION.
(See Exhibit N)

ADD. 3. OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING:

A. Modification of Executive Directors Contract

NO ACTION.
(See Exhibit O)

ADD. 4. PCT. #3:

A. Authorization to advertise for paving improvements on Trinity Road from Bryan Road to Stewart Road

Commissioner Rosel indicated that the request was for authorization to advertise for paving improvements on Trinity Road between Bryan Road and Stewart Road. It was approximately ½ mile of paving. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Garces to approve the request as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.
(See Exhibit P)

ADD. 5. Jail Project:

A. Discussion and approval to address various issues presented by County Judge

The County Judge informed the Commissioners that they had been furnished with a handout with regards to some issues that had to be addressed with regards to the jail project. He did say that these items had to be settled by January 29, which was when they would have to report to the Jail Commission. Commissioner Rosel asked if they were going to discuss these items and the

County Judge indicated that they could not discuss them at this time. Commissioner Rosel then pointed out that the County Judge had mentioned some kind of tentative schedule that was supposed to be prepared such as the selection of an architect, the funding and other issues. He then added that he would like to see this schedule as soon as possible. Valde Guerra informed the Court that January 12th the selection of the architect would be brought to this Court for consideration and Commissioner Rosel asked how that process would be done and Mrs. Salazar, the Purchasing Agent, stated that she would need some direction as to how this Commissioners' Court would like to do that. Commissioner Handy indicated that when a workshop was held this Commission had selected three architects and she wanted to know how that selection was done and Commissioner Rosel responded to her question. Commissioner Garces added that when the Boot Camp extension was done they had selected a three-member committee and they had come to this Commissioners' Court to recommend and he felt that maybe they could follow that example. The County Judge pointed out that he felt that they were close enough in solving this problem that they should not have to go that route and he felt that anything that had to do with the Jail, that they should allow the County Sheriff to be present so that he can voice his input. After a brief discussion Mrs. Salazar stated that she would send notice to the three selectees to do a presentation on January 12th. Commissioner Rosel indicated that he would like to have the person in charge of each firm be present for the presentation. County Judge added that he felt that the public needs to feel that this issue is being taken care of in an open way and that it was not done prior and that it is being done on qualifications and Commissioner Rosel concurred.

NO ACTION.
(See Exhibit Q)

ADD. 6. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF RELOCATING ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Garces indicated that he had seen to Mr. Joe Lopez, the Adult Probation Director, this morning and Commissioner Rosel pointed that it has been discussed in the past to move this department out of the Administration Building, and he asked on the number of square feet that this department had on the third and fourth floors. County Judge Cuellar asked the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, Raul Hernandez, how many feet there were and the response was that there was approximately 32,000 square feet. The County Judge concurred that this was a very bad location for this department and Commissioner Rosel asked Steve Crain, the County Legal Counsel, if they had to go into Executive Session to discuss this problem. He then continued that if they looked into moving this department out they would have to look at a building

with approximately 15,000 square feet with possibility of expansion and he felt that at some point in the future maybe they can look at setting up substations in the west and east area for this department. He felt that if they were going to do something with the jail then they can also look at doing some thing about the problems of housing this department in this building, such as parking and vandalism. Mr. Hernandez concurred with the Commissioner and went on to point out other problems that they have encountered. Commissioner Rosel continued by saying that they had security for the Courthouse, but there was a lack of it in this building and he had encouraged that they hire two individuals for this building. Mr. Hernandez stated that he had already purchased four cameras and he had four more coming in and he was going to use them as surveillance cameras within the problem areas. Commissioner Rosel recommended that the County Judge set up an Executive Session for the next meeting so that they can decide as to what avenues can be pursued with regards to taking care of this problem.

Commissioner Rosel went back to the purchase of the jail site and asked if there was anything that they needed to do and Mr. Crain responded to his concerns. He also stated that they had asked the financial advisor to explain the difference in interest rates for the general obligation bonds and certificates of obligation and the financial advisor had indicated that there was no difference and the Commissioner would like this checked out again. Commissioner Rosel continued his discussion by going to Item 5 on the handout with regards to the County recapturing some monies that were put out from the General Fund in order to address the fifth floor and the Courthouse roof repairs; Mrs. Etnire responded to his concerns on this issue. The County Judge reported that he had attended three meetings on the Regional Academic Health Center, the University of Texas realized that no city on its own can handle the amount of money that it would cost for operation and maintenance, but they are making a suggestion that the cities come together and that the County be a part. He has indicated that the County Commission is not interested until the cities talk it out and have a plan where they can get together and we can be a part of a county-wide situation. He felt that this Commissioners' Court should give a directive that we shouldn't stay behind and that we should take the lead and he felt that this Court should give the County Judge to take the lead and the County Judge felt that this was not necessary until the cities came together and reached an agreement. Commissioner Garces felt that maybe they should involve the County Health Director in these discussions. Judge Cuellar recommended that maybe they should look at hiring a consultant, being that Cameron County already has in order to help the University of Texas find a location that would be suitable. Commissioner Rosel stated that while he agreed that the cities should come together, he felt that there was an urgency that the County Judge, as a representative of the County, should take the lead in bringing them to the table and let them know that this is the only way that this can be done. There being no further comments this discussion was closed.

NO ACTION.

The County Judge then thanked the Commission for the way that they have worked together, he also wanted to thank the people present for their participation with this Court, as well as his staff. He also introduced the theme for the New Year which was going to be "Service to the Community, Service to the Constituents" and he would be holding a meeting with his staff to let people know that they are important and that their job was to work with this County Commissioners' Court.

There being no further business to come before the Court, a motion was made by Commissioner Rosel and seconded by Commissioner Handy that said meeting of Commissioners' Court be hereby adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED.